

nada, I was cordially received, and was at once at home. Yours, &c.

J. T. B.

L'Original, September 22.

#### EPISCOPACY AND DISSENT IN ENGLAND.

To the Editors of the Christian Intelligencer.

BRETHREN,—In a prelatical paper just started in Tennessee, called the "PRIMITIVE STANDARD," is an article on the extent of Episcopacy, compared with Dissent. The writer states, "that the population of England and Wales is estimated at 16,000,000; that of them the Dissenters can claim, at the utmost, no more than 2,000,000. In England, then," says he, "seven in every eight adhere to Episcopacy."

Surely the author of this statement can never have spent a Sabbath in that country, or he could not have supposed the whole population to be professors of religion! The great majority of the people of England go to no place of worship whatever. A few years ago, in a publication on "The Violation of the Sabbath," it was asserted, that more than SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND left the metropolis every Lord's day, on parties of worldly pleasure and dissipation. At that time the population of London was about 1,400,000; so that one half lived in the total neglect of the Sabbath. It may be satisfactory to some of your readers to know, from a source to be depended on, the truth, on this controverted subject. The statement now submitted may be relied on as impartial and correct, being given to a unit from the account laid before the HOUSE OF COMMONS, two or three years since, by a committee that was appointed to ascertain from every parish in England and Wales, the number of inhabitants, and the amount of accommodation in the Episcopal churches and Dissenting chapels.

From this report I will now furnish an abstract, so far as it regards London and the most populous towns in the kingdom.

LONDON, WESTMINSTER, AND SUBURBS.—Population 1,434,868. Episcopal churches, cathedrals, and chapels, 255; containing 259,958 sittings. Dissenting places of worship, 372; sittings for 214,003.

LANCASTER.—Population, 816,000. Episcopal churches and chapels, 320. Dissenting chapels, 530. Sittings in the Established churches and Dissenting chapels, exactly equal.

LIVERPOOL.—Episcopal churches, 29. Dissenting chapels, 46. Estimated attendance in the Establishment, 45,000. Other denominations, 50,000. Roman Catholics, 12,000. Sunday scholars—Episcopal, 6,000; Dissenters, 13,000.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.—Population, 272,761.—Episcopal churches, 29; sittings, 33,000. Dissenting chapels, 71; sittings, 43,700. Sunday-schools in the Establishment,

25; scholars, 10,287. Among Dissenters, 61 schools, and 22,909 scholars.

LEEDS.—Population, 82,121. Episcopal churches, 9; sittings, 13,325. Dissenting chapels, 27; sittings, 27,866. Roman Catholic churches, 2; sittings, 1,630.

SHEFFIELD.—Population, 71,720. Episcopal churches, 10; sittings, 13,770. Dissenting chapels, 30; sittings, 34,465.

NOTTINGHAM.—Episcopal churches, 5; sittings, 5,800. Dissenting chapels, 23; sittings, 12,000. Population, 55,680. Episcopal Sunday-schools, 1,678. Dissenters in Sunday-schools, 5,048.

BIRMINGHAM.—Population in 1831, 146,586. Episcopal churches, 17; sittings, 23,600. Dissenting chapels, 64; sittings, 31,100. There were 14 Sunday-schools of the Establishment, with 4,565 scholars; and 41 Dissenting Sunday-schools, with 12,101 scholars.

The other cities and towns show much the same proportion of Episcopacy to Dissent. I have not included the Popish chapels among those of the Dissenters, as the Papists are bigotted Episcopals; their churches are rather more than 600.

I have resided some years in Europe. Have travelled in every county in England. From a boy, have felt pleasure in studying Ecclesiastical Statistics, and to the present day take a little trouble to add to my stock of information on this subject. I have visited almost every cathedral in England, have looked into many of them during the performance of the service, and I never saw, even at the Sabbath service, as many as 250 persons, except in a single instance. I have been in hundreds of Episcopal churches when they have had their fullest attendance, and can most conscientiously affirm, from observation, and the best information that could be procured, both from the Episcopal clergy and many of their most respectable hearers, that, taking the Established churches as a whole, they are not one quarter filled, while the chapels of the despised and oppressed Dissenters are generally crowded, and not a few of them will seat from two to three thousand hearers. I feel no triumph in making this statement. If the Episcopal pulpits were supplied with godly men, I should rejoice to hear that these churches were full to overflowing; and I may add, that in those churches where the Gospel is faithfully preached by pious men, there is no want of hearers. With regard to matters of discipline and church government, while we believe our own standards are in full accordance with the Word of God, and therefore have our conscientious preference, we can say from the heart, "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity;" "whether in pretence or in truth Christ is preached, and we therein do rejoice, and will rejoice."

I am, brothers, yours respectfully,

H. VAN YAM.